



Committee on Homeland Security

Democrats
Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member

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COMMITTEE DEMOCRATS CALL FOR HEARING TO EXAMINE ALLEGED DETAINEE ABUSE AT GUANTANAMO BAY

WASHINGTON—Several members of the House Committee on Homeland Security have urged the Committee to hold hearings into the alleged prison abuse scandal at Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba.

In a letter sent Wednesday, Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS), and Representatives Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX), and Donna M. Christiansen (D-VI) stressed to Chairman Christopher Cox (R-CA) that the alleged reported abuse comes under the jurisdiction of the committee's responsibility to fully investigate into this matter to determine if such mistreatments have been carried out at the prison, as a way to ensure the safety and security of America.

"The alleged torture and abuse detainees may have experienced while at Guantanamo Bay is simply unacceptable, inhumane and unconstitutional. With recent credible reports revealing that enemy combatant abuse has been used, it is evident that whenever we are confronted with instances which seem to indicate that the credibility and candor of those carrying out policies of the U.S. government may be questioned, it is our duty to determine the truth and resolve any doubts."

In February 2004, a Congressional Delegation of the Committee visited Guantanamo Bay and witnessed the interrogation process of the prisoners. At the time, the members were assured that torturous methods were not used against detainees.

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